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Cloak-and-Dagger Cash—2

McCarthy's Bill Aims at First CIA Probe

By EDWARD J. MICHELSON

WASHINGTON (NANA)—Sen. Eugene McCarthy, D-Minn., a Foreign Relations Committee member, is sponsor of a bill setting up a select Senate investigative unit to make the first review of CIA in its history, and to report back at the end of next January with conclusions and recommendations for overhaul.

McCarthy says CIA is the only federal agency that has not undergone such a congressional "review" since it was established during the Truman administration. The only investigation that resulted in overhaul was that ordered by President John F. Kennedy following the Bay of Pigs fiasco.

McCarthy says Congress must check out the validity of rumors about CIA involvement in activities far beyond the original scope of the agency. President Truman revealed in 1963 (in a signed article for NANA) that he erred in approving legislation setting up the agency because he never intended to create a "cloak-and-dagger" service.

Truman Ended OSS

It was Truman who ordered the Bureau of the Budget to shut down the Office of Strategic Services late in 1946, by cutting off funds. The then president was irked by "now-it-can-be-told" tales of OSS derring-do in the press, a propaganda effort launched to salvage the wartime agency as the basis for a permanent secret intelligence service.

The secret of how money is funneled into CIA from other agencies is expected to be kept

this year. But the growing criticism of CIA promises to result in greater disclosure of how it spends money and under what controls.

Rumors Continue

Critics of the supposedly supersecret agency see reminders almost daily of its activities. Some have private pipelines into CIA to employes who favor

bills pending in Congress.

Newsmen also seem to have such pipelines. Some columnists report unfavorably on the effectiveness of CIA's director, Vice Adm. William F. (Red) Raborn, USN, ret. He is blamed for an alleged decline in morale. Research and analysis experts are said to desire the curtailment of cloak-and-dagger operations.

The suicide of a former deputy chief of CIA some months ago prompted one Washington newspaper to eulogize the official editorially as a man who had given his life for his country, having incurred two nervous breakdowns in undertaking major Cold War tasks.

It is almost a daily occurrence for the press to have letters to the editors with pro and con attitudes about CIA, or statements from unfriendly chiefs of state around the world, blaming CIA for fomenting revolutions. A nutritional scientist who was discovered drowned under mysterious circumstances in a canal in Holland several weeks ago was identified as a Washington resident with CIA connections.

Image Problems

The imminent transfer of the U.S. ambassador in Santo Domingo to another assignment raises questions as to whether CIA still is the chief intelligence force in the Caribbean. It is known that the Federal Bureau of Investigation has long been a major source of information in the area for the White House. But Congress willingly approves appropriations for FBI work that are kept secret insofar as the record is concerned, and without complaint.

CIA has tried through press conferences and other means to improve its "image." It has counterattacked the Soviet "department of disinformation" for circulating forged documents in many countries. A best-selling book about CIA as "an invisible government" has been denounced as aiding America's adversaries.



Mauldin in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch